

Final Report:

Project on

Phase-down on Dental Amalgam Use in Nigeria - *follow up activities*

Towards a concerted and proactive effort to Phase down dental amalgam use in Nigeria

TO

Mr. Charles Brown

President

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR MERCURY-FREE DENTISTRY
(WAMFD)**

BY

Leslie Adogame

**Sustainable Research and Action for
Environmental Development**

(SRADev Nigeria)

ane_adogame@hotmail.com

July, 2015

SRADev Nigeria:Bridging the Gap between Environmental Knowledge and Action!

1.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Amalgam was a subject of full debate at the Minamata Convention. The final decision made four points clear. Firstly, nations must phase down amalgam use. Secondly, each nation must take action not at some future date like 2020 or 2025, but at once (to some nations, the signing; to others, the ratification – but in many Africa nations, the intention is to begin now). Thirdly, by grouping amalgam with other products instead of as a waste, the focus is on reduction of use and transition to alternatives. Fourthly, by placing amalgam in the annex, the Convention remains open-minded to accelerated action in the future based on the Convention’s experience in its early years.

Dental amalgam is a tooth filling material that is approximately 50% mercury, a highly polluting neurotoxin. Nations around the world are working to phase-down – and ultimately phase-out – amalgam use. This is chiefly due to the fact that dental mercury pollution is significant, mercury-free dental restorations are available and the fact that the Minamata Convention on Mercury requires the phase-down of dental amalgam use. Sequel to this, SRADev Nigeria hosted the West African Summit on Phasing Out Amalgam was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 20 May 2014, bringing together NGO leaders from ECOWAS nations of Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania, who adopted the Abuja Declaration for Mercury-Free Dentistry for Africa. The Declaration’s aim is that Africa shall be the first continent to phase out amalgam.

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry (WAMFD)/SRADev Nigeria have taken up a campaign to not only ensure that Africa emerges dental amalgam-free, but also to implement the dental amalgam phase-down measures of the Minamata Convention (and ultimately phase out amalgam use), which has so far been ratified by seven (7) countries.

2.0 INTRODUCTION:

Towards the implementation of the *Minamata Convention*, the African Region led the way on dental mercury. It was this region, meeting in Pretoria, which adopted the road map for amalgam reduction, known as phase-down steps. Amalgam is the only product which has a plan of action, specific phase-down steps which can reduce its use -- *and point the way toward its virtual end*. In that spirit, SRADev Nigeria encouraged action to begin on amalgam since Nigeria has joined the EU and other 91 countries to sign the Mercury Treaty on 10 October 2013 in Japan.

Following the successful stakeholder’s conference in Abuja in May 2014 (Nigeria phase 1), the Global President of the WAMFD (Mr. Charlie Brown) agreed to commence action on Nigeria Phase 2 programme and hence planned a visit to Nigeria in the month of April 2015, with the aim to facilitate “*National/regional concerted and proactive effort towards Phase-down dental amalgam use*”. The group agreed on three reasons to address the phase-down of amalgam in Nigeria. *First*, we reduce, eventually to zero the dreadful pollution of the nation’s water, land, and air with dental mercury. *Second*, make Nigeria into Africa’s model for 21st-century dentistry, mercury-free dentistry. *Third*, stop the toxic trade of dental mercury – which most regretfully is diverted illegally into the gold fields and other sectors.

To this end, SRADev Nigeria (a local member of WAMFD) was contracted (22 February - 2 June 2015, a period of 100 days) to organize in advance for the meeting, plan and implement the phase 2 activities below:

3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

The terms of reference for SRADev to undertake were:

3.1 PRE-VISIT TASK/ACTIVITIES:

- a. SRADev (jointly with WAMFD) will prepare a revised fact sheet for Consumers Protection Council (CPC), and present in advance of meeting with them.
- b. Make contact with key senior officials (as appropriate) and confirm date, time and venues for all meeting events of 15-18 April 2015. For each group, SRADev and World Alliance will provide briefing, including written materials, on potential role of that agency in phasing down amalgam.
 - i. Plan and organize bilateral meetings in Abuja: *Customs, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and CPC* from 15/4/15 to 16/4/15.
 - ii. Plan and execute bilateral meetings in Lagos: *State Ministry of Environment, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), UNIDO, NAFDAC, LUTH, Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) etc* from 17/4/15 to 18/4/15.
 - iii. Plan and execute an NGO meeting on 18/4/15, to discuss a strategy of follow-up for each agency and to discuss a strategy on how to make famous the Abuja Declaration for Mercury-Free Dentistry.
- c. Identify specific messages for each target group and plan short power-point presentations where necessary (in consultation with WAMFD).
- d. Plan and arrange logistics towards local transportation, local flights both airport pick up and drop offs. Arrange safe and comfortable hotel for lodging in Abuja (1 night) and Lagos (2-3 nights).

3.2 POST-VISIT TASK/ACTIVITIES:

- a. SRADev will complete a plan for follow-up with the agencies. Recognizing that agency interest and agency powers vary, so with some agencies the follow-up may be substantial, with others little to none.
- b. In the weeks following the meetings, until the end of the contract, SRADev will do the follow-up with the agencies agreed upon, with a goal of a substantial phase-down in use of dental amalgam.
- c. Among other post-visit actions will be the CPC information sheet on amalgam: to gain agreement on its terms, to get it printed, and to distribute it widely. The World Alliance will pay for printing costs, and SRADev will plan its distribution, and ensure that it is in fact distributed. SRADev understands that this work may need to continue past the end of the contract.

- d. Final Report: At the conclusion of the activity, SRADev Nigeria will submit a Final Report, as defined in the World Alliance report-back template, where it is welcome to suggest a third phase to this work.

4.0 MEETINGS REPORT BACK:

4.1 BILATERAL MEETINGS IN ABUJA FCT

4.1.1 MEETING WITH UNIDO

Preamble:

The meeting took place at the UNIDO Regional Office (*Plot 256 Zone AO Herbert Macaulay Way, Abuja*) on April 15, 2015 from 3.15pm to 4.35pm. In attendance were: Mr. Oluyomi Banjo (UNIDO Environment Expert), Mr. Charlie Brown (President, WAMFD) and Mr. Leslie Adogame (Executive Director, SRADev Nigeria).

Mr. Adogame introduced the President of WAMFD; Mr. Brown spoke extensively on the purpose of the visit to Nigeria and some other West Africa countries – Ghana, Ivory Coast. He briefed on the activities of his global team since the Minamata Convention in 2014 in Japan. Highlights of brief address were:

- The Minamata Convention process from inception and the Dental amalgam mandate
- Dental amalgam use and its risk to environment, human health and its global shift to alternatives
- Justification on Africa use of dental amalgam and the need for Africa to be the first on mercury free dentistry
- Past activities in Nigeria hosted by SRADev Nigeria in collaboration with WAMFD leading to Abuja declaration and Stakeholders workshop on dental amalgam phase down in 2014.
- The planned Francophone Africa countries workshop on Dental amalgam phase down in Cote D’Ivoire in April 2015 to be jointly sponsored by WAMFD and UNEP.
- The need for national action plans towards mercury free dentistry through change in dental school’s curriculum, consumer right programmes, promotion of amalgam use alternatives etc.

UNIDO’s RESPONSE:

Mr. Banjo response on behalf of UNIDO, he started by welcoming WAMFD and SRADev to UNIDO’s office. He requested clarification on *who were the key stakeholders at the Abuja declaration meeting and the stakeholder’s workshop?* An immediate explanation of the key participants at the two events as well as the purpose and outcome of each meeting was immediately provided in details.

He commended the effort of the team and also noted the key contribution of SRADev locally since the Eli and UNIDO workshop in Abuja in 2013 on ASGM. He updated on the mandate and regional activities of UNIDO as a UN organ. He briefed on UNIDO’s involvement with the Minamata Convention as presently coordinating the Minamata initial Assessment (MIA) process jointly with UNITAR and the Federal Ministry of Environment in Nigeria for the next 2 years. Highlights are:

1. MIA objective is to develop a baseline for the country in terms of a picture of what is available on data generation.
2. MIA is putting in place a baseline for action on the Convention with 4 components for Nigeria (institutional gaps, review of legislative framework, inventory of mercury in sectors/workshops by UNITAR using the mercury tool kits, awareness programme through workshops, jingles, IECs etc.
3. The planned MIA Steering group inauguration and the inception national workshop for 27-28 April 2015 as the take off point for the MIA process for Nigeria. SRADev would be invited as a member of the steering group and also to make a presentation at the workshop.
4. The need for in-country coordination and participation of key stakeholders in the process towards awareness raising and data generation on mercury issues. Recognition of NGOs role is already made into MIA process and that SRADev would play an active role in awareness aspect of MIA (an opportunity for dental amalgam information), baseline data and alternatives aspects.
5. After MIA, justification for phase down of amalgam in-country becomes imminent and getting the key institutions to push for phase down comes handy. Evidently, it will take MIA half way implementation before dental amalgam comes on board in view of the planned activities.

MEETING CONCLUSIONS/OUTCOMES:

- ✓ UNIDO will coordinate with MIA and take along the dental amalgam phase down eventually. Assurance of involvement of SRADev and his team in all future activities of MIA.
- ✓ UNIDO gave assurance to facilitate a meeting or introduce SRADev to **Kirsten Dales** (UNIDO MIA Project Facilitator) and **Carlos Marin** (Mercury Projects Coordinator, UNITAR) coming in from Geneva who both would be attending the inception workshops.
- ✓ Also UNIDO promised to put some words across to the ministry on NGO involvement in MIA as well as Dental amalgam cooperation, but request SRADev to give a feedback on the meeting with the focal point.
- ✓ Meeting ended with a courtesy visit to the office of the UNIDO Representative to Nigeria, ECOWAS & Director of the Regional Office (Dr. Patrick Kormawa) who was briefed on the outcome of the meeting and he endorsed the need for national and regional action on mercury management and dental amalgam phase down as well. He pledged the cooperation of UNIDO in future works in this regards.



Meeting with UNIDO

4.1.2 MEETING WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Preamble:

The second meeting with the focal point held on 16 April, 2015 at the office of the Director of Pollution Control from 11.00am to 12.15pm. Present at the meeting were:

- i. Mr. Kasimu Bayero (Director, Pollution Control and Environmental Health)
- ii. Dr. I.A. Goji (Deputy Director)
- iii. Mrs. Oluwatoyin Ajala (MIA Focal Point)
- iv. Mrs. Stella..... (Ministry's Legal Adviser)
- v. Mr. Ahmed Bah Ibrahim (MIA Project Secretariat)
- vi. Mr. Olawale Akande (chemical secretariat)
- vii. Mr. Amos Ishaya (chemical secretariat)
- viii. Mr. Charles Brown (WAMFD)
- ix. Mr. Leslie Adogame (SRADev)

The meeting was opened by the Director who introduced members of his department and called on SRADev to make its own introduction. Mr. Adogame thanked the Director for the privilege of the meeting noting his open door policy. He introduced the President of WAMFD. Mr. Charlie underscored the importance of Africa in the mercury convention process and that Nigeria is the colossus of Africa who can lead the process of phase down programme. He presented the proposed phase down action plans as background for national action and circulated the Abuja declaration to all participants. He also spoke concerning:

- The Minamata Convention process from inception and the Dental amalgam mandate. Dental amalgam use and its risk to environment, human health and the global shift to alternatives.
- Past activities in Nigeria hosted by SRADev Nigeria in collaboration with WAMFD leading to Abuja declaration by West African NGO and Stakeholders workshop on dental amalgam phase down in May 2014. Thanked the ministry for their support during the stakeholder's workshop particularly and enjoined that the meeting was work in progress towards actualizing the phase down action plan that resulted from the workshop.

- That the MIA process provides an opportunity for Nigeria phase down programme. That WAMFD is ready to strengthen the relationship, fund some component of the process if need be and work towards implementation of the phase down programme under the leadership of the department.
- Francophone Africa countries workshop on Dental amalgam phase down in Cote D' Ivoire in April 2015 to be jointly sponsored by WAMFD and UNEP.
- Mr. Adogame added the need a way forward action plan suggesting the formation of the proposed committee as was recommended in the stakeholder's action plan.

THE MINISTRY'S RESPONSE/COMMENTS:

The Director explained that the ministry was just about to beginning the MIA implementation and that Ratification is one priority step that needs to be finalized before any other aspect of the Convention. He outlined the process of the MIA as indicated by the UNIDO staff. He noted that data gathering towards Phase down of amalgam is very necessary and remains the main focus of the ministry at the initial stage. He submitted that phase down of dental amalgam was essentially a component for the MIA which will come but in much later stage of the implementation.

The Deputy Director added that stakeholder information such as those gathered by SRADev were very relevant to the initial assessment which encourages stakeholder's participation as well. He informed that a stakeholder's workshop on ratification which also involved amalgam was already scheduled for 27 April 2015 and that the workshop will help to sensitize the stakeholders and push for its phase down. He enjoined SRADev who will be invited to the meeting as a key stakeholder to voice out on this during the meeting.

Mrs. Ajala stressed that the conduct of the MIA would have encompassed all aspects of the mercury convention but due to funding challenge, the ministry would have to prioritize. The priority at the moment was carrying out a national inventory of mercury and mercury products into a database before policy action can follow. The legal adviser to the ministry opined that phase down programme presupposes that enough information has been gathered and requested to know what the alternatives of dental amalgam are and if enough research has been done to show that the alternatives are harmless as well.

Mr. Brown responded to the question of availability of alternatives which are well researched and known already and infact some are in use in Nigeria but for cost differential. Notwithstanding, the overall effect to humans and the environment factored-in further provides the justification for a shift to amalgam alternatives.

Mr. Adogame also explained in brief the findings in previous study by SRADev on mercury added products imported into the country which showed that some alternatives are already been used but in terms of efficacy, durability, and cost benefit analysis are new studies that would be explored soon by the organisation. He also mentioned that a consumer brochure information on right to know given the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives was presently been finalized between WAMFD, Consumer Protection Council (CPC) and SRADev and when ready would be made available to dental clinics for consumer education.

MEETING CONCLUSIONS/OUTCOMES:

- ✓ Early ratification of the mercury convention by the end of 2015 is the immediate priority of the ministry.
- ✓ Inventory of mercury sources will provide the basis for needed action and planning towards phase down.
- ✓ Formation of a formidable committee and action plans are key outcomes of the planned inception workshops.
- ✓ Future efforts should focus immediately on detail information on knowledge of alternatives of amalgam to facilitate phase down action plans.
- ✓ Meeting ended with photographs and coffee refreshment to give way to another meeting delay by the Director.



Meeting with the Departmental team

4.1.3 MEETING WITH CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCIL (CPC)

Preamble:

The meeting was held on 16 April, 2015 at the office of the Director of Quality Assurance & Development department from 12.50pm to 2.15pm. Present at the meeting were:

1. Mr. Amlai Emmanuel (*Director*)
2. Mrs. M.O. Akeju (*Deputy Director*)
3. Mr. Kelechi K. Oko (*Assistant Director*)
4. Mrs. F.O. Ojo (*Assistant Chief Laboratory Scientist*)
5. Mr. Nwaogochi Ifeanyi (*Scientific Officer II*)
6. Mr. Leslie Adogame (*ED, SRADev*)
7. Mr. Charles Brown (*President, WAMFD*)

The Director introduced members of his department and requested SRADev to introduce the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Adogame thanked CPC for granting SRADev team the opportunity to meet for the first time formally despite series of communication with the department staff; he also thanked the Director for participating in person with his staff to present a paper at the last stakeholder's workshop on phase down of dental amalgam in Nigeria in May 22, 2014. He spoke about the focus and mandate of the Minamata Convention and CPC strategic position at national level in the area of consumer's protection and right with regards to continued use of dental amalgam in dental fixtures. He further introduced Mr. Brown to introduce the main reason for the visit to CPC.

The President of WAMFD highlighted on the following:

- The mandate of the mercury convention and dental amalgam phase down.
- The risk of continued use of dental amalgam in dental fixtures and need for alternatives. The risk of dental amalgam continued use pose to practitioners, dental patients and the environment.
- Explained that efforts are been made to develop a brochure (outlining alternatives to dental amalgam with advantages and disadvantages) jointly with staff of the CPC which would serve as an information document to be distributed using CPC platform to dental clinics and hospitals across the country to avail patients and consumers an opportunity to make a choice for alternatives.
- He stressed on how Africa has in the past leapfrogged the digital technology era and that same progress is expected and possible in the case of amalgam phase down.
- Modalities to conclude the brochure content and arrange for printing and distribution. WAMFD will defray the cost of printing the document.
- That SRADev and WAMFD were open to other areas of collaboration in future to ensure that the phase down on dental amalgam in Nigeria is conformed to and achieved in no distant time.

CPC RESPONSE:

- The Director expressed happiness with the team for the confidence in posed in CPC and choice of CPC for the collaboration. He asked to know what was the position of FDI in the U.S position on the phase down/phase out campaign.
- Explained the position and mandate of CPC as a government institution protecting the rights of consumers nationwide. It has six zonal offices national wide, but state governments by law can establish state consumers agencies e.g. Kano, Jigawa states. Some state operate through committees e.g. Ondo state etc.
- Emphasised that mercury convention is more about environment and not specifically health issue. He agree on the need to drive the campaign from the environment point of concern. He mentioned about mercury in products as well as issues of concern to CPC.
- Consumers have a right of choice indeed and the issues in question was rightly concieved to be communicated to Nigeria consumers.

- Appreciated the existence of substitutes and alternatives to dental amalgam use like glass ionomers, composite etc.
- Advocated the need to engage with the Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) to accept the alternatives noting that some are already in use. Also, the involvement of the National health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).
- He assured on the readiness of CPC to collaborate with SRADev and WAMFD on the task ahead, but also requested to know what was SRADev business interest.
- Canvassed the need for the cost of alternatives to be assessed which is a concern for the poor or majority of Nigerians. The need for possible funding to help cushion the cost or lower or subsidising the cost of alternatives.
- That the information flier earlier presented to CPC would need to be revised or improved further to include more eye catching photospeak to drive the messages to local consumers.

SRADev and WAMFD COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown further responded on the FDI query, that the American institution was not favourable to the process in any good way but other countries in EU and Africa are moving ahead. He also mentioned that the suggestion of inclusion of the NHIS would be looked into as a relevant component framework for intervention.

Mr. Adogame also clarified on the engagement with NDA from inception and was still ongoing at the very highest level of the Federal ministry of health and the association of various practitioners involved; this he said resulted in the massive support and collaboration received with ministry and association members who participated at the last stakeholder’s workshop in Abuja in 2014. With regards to business interest of SRADev, he explained that SRADev was a registered national NGO with international affiliation committed to selfless service as the NGO focal point on chemicals in the past 10 years, and as such has and will never had any business motive beside delivery non-profit services to the Nigerian populace.

CONCLUSIONS/ACTION POINTS:

The meeting came up with the following action points and way forward:

- ✓ A collaboration committee made up of 5 members (3 CPC, 2 SRADev) was set up. This would be made up of Mr. Kelechi and Mr. Ifeanyi from CPC and Mr. Adogame and Mr. Ambrose from SRADev.
- ✓ The committee would assess all documents to be printed or worked on in the course of the collaboration, review graphics, pictures and finalise the brochure for printing
- ✓ Draw up a short, medium and long term approaches to addressing consumers rights protection programmes on dental amalgam phase down for Nigeria on behalf of the two organisations.
- ✓ Mr. Brown to send photo captions of dental amalgam to SRADev for onward to CPC incorporation into the revised draft document of the brochure.

- ✓ Submit a draft report of above in two weeks towards finalise the printing of the brochure.



4.2 BILATERAL MEETINGS IN LAGOS

4.2.1 MEETING WITH LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE (LASUCOM):

The first meeting in Lagos was held on 17 April, 2015 at the office of the Dean, Faculty of Dentistry from 10.15am to 11.30pm. Present in the meeting were:

1. Prof. Ademola Olaitan - *Dean, Faculty of Dentistry (LASUCOM) and President National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.*
2. Dr. Adolphus Loto - *Head of Restorative Dentistry, LASUCOM*
3. Mr. Charles Brown - *President, WAMFD, USA*
4. Mr. Leslie Adogame - *ED, SRADev Nigeria*
5. Akpobe Ambrose - *Programme Officer, SRADev Nigeria*

The meeting started with an initial session held with Dr. Loto before it was joined by the Prof. Olaitan. Mr. Adogame expressed appreciation to Dr. Loto and the department generally for the support received by SRADev since commencing work on dental amalgam. He singularly noted the overwhelming interest shown by him since 2010 and ever ready to receive his team. Adogame stressed on the needs for mercury free dentistry as amalgam is the only product which has a plan of action, specific phase-down steps which can reduce its use -- *and point the way toward its virtual end*. He introduced Mr. Brown and the collaborative efforts since the last stakeholder's workshop which he participated on behalf of LASUCOM.

Mr. Brown commended the effort of Dr. Loto and said that the meeting was to explore further ways of advancing the process since the institution was identified as pilot institution and a very vibrant focal point for action. He said African's opted for the phase-down action on amalgam in the regional meeting in Pretoria and the UNEP Governing Council, meeting in Nairobi which called for "voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force." He also emphasized on the reasons why it is timely to begin the phase-down of amalgam in Nigeria, since Nigeria delegates played a significant role during the negotiations of the Convention and West Africa NGOs led the way in Africa in developing the Abuja declaration in 2014. He further spoke on the proposed dental amalgam action plans which the country is expected to follow and noted that a starting place for the institution like LASUCOM was the change in curriculum for dental students.



LASUCOM RESPONSE: Highlights of the discussion are:

Dr. Loto informed that the institution was already making pro-active steps towards phasing down amalgam use in the school's curriculum; he articulated some of the steps as:

- Ongoing curriculum change since the teaching of alternatives like ionomers is now the first teaching before amalgam aspects.
- In pre-clinical examinations, amalgam test is no more done unlike in the past
- Guidelines now in place in terms of restorative dentistry to dental alternatives and how marks are awarded etc.

- Emphasis is now on preventive dentistry and oral hygiene.
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (another premier university teaching hospital in south western Nigeria) is also adopting same approach as LASUCOM.
- Government is involved in the purchase of dental amalgam for the hospital works but noted the cost of alternatives remains a challenge.
- On a simple analysis in terms of practical cost implication, an amalgam cost N2,000 per filling while its alternative Composite cost N5,000 per filling. Also a pack of amalgam of 50 will cost N7,000 while a pack of 50 Composite will cost N24,000 in the market. So majority of the poor people will naturally go for amalgam.
- On the question of what help is required, he mentioned institutional assistance in the areas of considering endowment to dental schools, funding pilot project to LASUCOM, exploring ADfB funding of hospital programmes etc.

Prof. Olaitan mentioned the cost of the dental amalgam alternatives as well, following further discussions the following action plans as way forward emerged for consideration:

CONCLUSIONS/ACTION POINTS:

- Possibility of institutionalising the LASUCOM model of intervention in all dental schools across the country.
- The availability of funds and small grants to enable home based research in which the findings will be evidence-based to convince the public and government on the need for mercury alternatives.
- The need for manufacturers of alternatives to consider local production of alternatives by establishing production facilities in Nigeria, this is considered would help reduce pricing.
- Human capacity development and training of dentists on the use of mercury alternatives.
- The involvement of educational institutions in the change or modification of students curriculum.



4.2.2 MEETING WITH LAGOS STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT:

Preamble:

The meeting was held at the office of the Head, Environmental planning & Climate Change, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos State from 12.00 pm-12.50pm on 17th April, 2015. Present at the meeting were:

Mr. Maximus Ugwuoke – Head, Environmental Planning & Climate change dept

Mrs. Bola I. Yussuf – **Scientific Officer, Lagos State Ministry of Environment**

Mr. Charles Brown – President, WAMFD, USA

Mr. Leslie Adogame - ED, SRADev Nigeria

Mr. Ambrose Akpobe - Programme Officer, SRADev Nigeria

Mr. Adogame after a brief introduction of the team thanked the ministry for its representation at the last stakeholder’s workshop on phase down of dental amalgam in Nigeria. He spoke briefly about the following:

- The Minamata Convention process from inception and the Dental amalgam mandate
- Dental amalgam use and its risk to environment, human health and the global shift to alternatives. He gave an appraisal of the successes by the ministry of environment on different frontiers hence it is been referred to as the central state of excellence. In this regard, mercury use in dentistry is an environmental problem in so many ways for example when dental tooth filled person are buried the mercury enters the environment as well as through disposal of dental waste are issues of concern.
- Justification on Africa use of dental amalgam and the need for Africa to be the first on mercury free dentistry
- Past activities in Nigeria hosted by SRADev Nigeria in collaboration with WAMFD leading to Abuja declaration and Stakeholders workshop on dental amalgam phase down in 2014.
- The planned Francophone Africa countries workshop on Dental amalgam phase down in Cote D’ Ivoire in April 2015 to be jointly sponsored by WAMFD and UNEP.
- He concluded by requesting to know the state of things with regards to the earlier letter of collaboration sent to the ministry to facilitate work on amalgam in Lagos state. He urged that the Ministry will use its government platform to bring into the ministry of Health into the issue for a more robust collaboration.

Mr. Brown spoke about the expediency of the phase down of amalgam use in Nigeria. He said Lagos state is recognized as a pacesetter in Nigeria development and as such should take the lead in the mercury scourge. He mentioned the environment and health implications of dental amalgam use whereas known alternative products are in place worldwide. He made reference to the book by Dayo Olopade on “The Bright Continent”, in that Nigeria and other Africa countries need to leapfrog in terms of the advancement in new dentistry practices giving example the use of GSM instead of the conventional telephones with wires and cables etc. He also made emphasis to the 2014 Abuja Declaration document which has been adopted and signed by 40 NGOs across

Africa while suggesting that the Japanese present a good model that can be adopted in phasing down amalgam. Additionally, he presented the copy of the Abuja Declaration document.

Mr. Brown finally made a subtle request on the need for the Ministry to come up with a policy on the amalgam phasing down programme or other ways that the institution can fast track the process.

RESPONSE FROM MINISTRY

Mr. Ugwuoke responded by applauding the teams effort and lauded SRADev Nigeria and WAMFD for their concern in such a critical but neglected issue of dental amalgam use in hospitals and dental clinics towards the ratification of Minamata Convention. He confirmed that the ministry had received SRADev letter and that appropriate recommendation for collaboration has been made to the highest authority and that a reply expected soon would be communicated. He expressed his enthusiasm that there would be a way forward as the ministry is passionate about making Lagos pollution free. He lamented on the figure released that out 3.5 million people that dies annually due to air pollution and it is appalling that 85% of those people are Africans.

He said Lagos state government is ready and that the ministry has been given a full approval to the quick ratification of the Minamata Convention and in fact they are ready to act as the whistle blower, so all that is needed now is available document and information to get to the public and also guidelines and action plan to work with.

ACTION PLAN / WAY FORWARD

Key action plans agreed upon were:

- The ministry will push for curriculum for sensitization and re-orientation at the institutional level.
- SRADev to forward the result of it research findings on ambient emission of mercury in the environment.
- Ministry of environment will invite SRADev to give a short presentation during their proposed action plan strategic meeting.

4.2.3 MEETING WITH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC):

Preamble:

The bi-lateral meeting was held at Director-General's office of NAFDAC, Oshodi, Lagos State on 17th April, 2015 from 1.30 pm to 2:30 pm. In attendance were:

1. **Dr. Paul Orhii** - Director General, NAFDAC
2. **Mrs. Elizabeth Awagu** - Special Assistant to Director General
3. **Mr. Akinwumi Ayodeji** - Head of Directorate of Chemical Evaluation and Research
4. **Mr. Sikiru Olowo** - Department of Chemical Evaluation and Research
5. **Mrs. Ayoade Folashade** - Department of Chemical Evaluation and Research
6. **Mr. Charlie Brown** - President, WAMFD, USA
7. **Mr. Leslie Adogame** - ED, SRADev Nigeria

8. Mr. Akpobe Ambrose - Programme Officer, SRADev Nigeria

Mr. Ayodeji started the meeting by introducing himself as the focal person and the representative for Ministry of Health at the 2015 Minamata Convention (INC5 in Bangkok) and serving as the inter-phase between NAFDAC and SRADev Nigeria since then. He noted that NAFDAC was a government institutions charged with the mandate of regulating all chemicals importation into the country and as such the purpose of the meeting with regards to mercury management fall within its mandate and it was timely and apt. He introduced the Director General of NAFDAC and other staff of the department. He called on SRADev to introduce the purpose of the meeting as stated on the request letter and approved by the DG.

Highlights of key issues by SRADev and WAMFD are:

- Mr. Adogame thanked the Director General on behalf of NAFDAC for previous collaboration particularly in the last dental amalgam phase down stakeholder’s meeting in May 2014.
- He commended the participation of NAFDAC in the entire process of the INC according to him was based particular interest of the DG on mercury issues.
- Stressed on the needs for mercury free dentistry as amalgam is the only product which has a plan of action, specific phase-down steps which can reduce its use.
- That African’s opted for the phase-down action on amalgam in the regional meeting in Pretoria and the UNEP Governing Council, meeting in Nairobi which called for “voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force.” Africa needs to be the first to phase down dental amalgam.
- Encourages action to begin now on amalgam since Nigeria has joined the EU and other 91 countries to sign the Mercury Treaty on 10 October 2013 in Japan.
- He emphasized the importance of NAFDAC as a key player in the dental amalgam phase-down plan. The need for NAFDAC to play the regulatory role which they are known for and to come up with a regulatory framework to achieve the dental amalgam phase down programme.
- Mr. Brown additionally gave a historical tracking of how Africa has in the past leapfrogged the digital technology era and that same progress was expected and possible in the case of amalgam phase down. In stressing the need for action, he made reference to the book by Dayo Olopade on “The Bright Continent”, that Nigeria and other Africa countries need to leapfrog in terms of the advancement in new dentistry practices giving example the use of GSM instead of the conventional telephones with wires and cables etc.
- He suggested the need for NAFDAC to make a regulation that will protect and prevent the most vulnerable groups such as the underage children, the aged and pregnant women from the use of dental amalgam.
- He further stated that the Japanese adopted method of phasing down amalgam as a good step to follow.
- With reference to the 2014 Abuja Declaration document which has been adopted and signed by 40 NGOs across Africa, he circulated the copies of the Abuja Declaration document to all present.



RESPONSE BY NAFDAC:

The response was made by the DG as follows:

- Lauded SRADev Nigeria and WAMFD for their concern and the focus on the dental amalgam phasing down towards the quick ratification of Minamata Convention.
- He stated the present challenge being faced by the agency on the fight against fake drugs, chemicals and the use of counterfeited products. He said instead of people facing the right channels in the purchase and shipment of products, people are now buying from the internet which is more difficult to track.
- He lamented the recent deaths in Ondo state from intake of local gin attributable probably to some chemicals or heavy metals adulteration and that agency's was seriously concern about the new development in chemical poisoning.
- He calls for the declaration of all the organization involved in the shipment of dental amalgam products into the country.
- Noted that NHIS should be highly involved in this fight, they should encourage the use of dental alternative by subsidizing the prices of the alternatives.
- Emphasised the need for a tripartite meeting between NAFDAC, Dentist association and SRADev to profer the way forward.
- Mrs. Awagu curiously requested to know why Africa should be the first continent to face down dental amalgam. Mr. Leslie responded that it was during the Africa regional meeting in Pretoria that the suggestion first came up which finally got adopted in the Minimata Convention and *Secondly*, it will position Africa a model for 21st- century dentistry, mercury-free dentistry'.
- Mr. Akpobe additionally suggested that NAFDAC could liaise with Nigerian Customs to assist NAFDAC in obtaining information on those that imports Dental amalgam products into the country since they have this information following SRADev last project findings.

ACTION PLAN/WAY FORWARD

Some of the action plans agreed upon were:

- The DG reiterated NAFDAC commitment to the fight against dangerous chemicals and hence the amalgam phase down programme and pledged its support any time.
- An Action plan committee between NAFDAC and SRADev Nigeria will be formed to determine the way forward for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.
- The mercury added products report findings of SRADev to be sent NAFDAC (Mrs Ayode) to enable them speed up action.

4.2.4 MEETING WITH NIGERIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (NDA):

PREAMBLE:

The meeting with the President of Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) held at an agreed location of Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on 17th April, 2015. In attendance were:

1. **Dr. Olabode Ijarogbe** – President, Nigerian Dental Association (NDA)
2. **Mr. Charles Brown** – President, WAMFD
3. **Mr. Leslie Adogame** – ED, SRADev Nigeria
4. **Mr. Akpobe Ambrose** - Programme Officer, SRADev Nigeria

INTRODUCTION/ OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Adogame made the introduction and thanked the Dr Ijarogbe for finding time to honour the invitation despite his very tight schedule. He laid down the key purpose of the meeting drawing from the need to phase down amalgam use in Nigeria towards a mercury free dentistry practice. He talked about the Minamata Convention signed on to by Nigeria and would soon be ratified which required a phase down of amalgam use. Stressed on the fact that specific phase-down steps which can reduce its use are known. He proposed that following the stakeholder’s workshop In Abuja which was attended by NDA former President and members, phase down action should begin now.

He also stated the reasons and gains for phase-down of amalgam in Nigeria. *Firstly*, it will reduce, eventually to zero, the dreadful pollution of the nation’s water, land, and air with dental mercury. *Secondly*, it will showcase Nigeria as Africa’s model for 21st-century dentistry, mercury-free dentistry and *thirdly*, it will stop the toxic trade of dental mercury – which most regretfully is diverted illegally into the gold fields and other sectors. He submitted that the contribution and participation of NDA cannot be overemphasized because they are key stakeholders and players.

Mr. Brown additionally informed on why phase down can start now with illustration of how Africa has in the past leapfrogged the digital technology era. While stressing on the need for action, he made reference to the book by Dayo Olopade on “The Bright Continent”, in that Nigeria and other Africa countries need to leapfrog in terms of the advancement in new dentistry practices giving example the use of GSM instead of the conventional telephones with wires and cables etc. He also drew emphasis to the 2014 Abuja Declaration document has been adopted and signed by 40

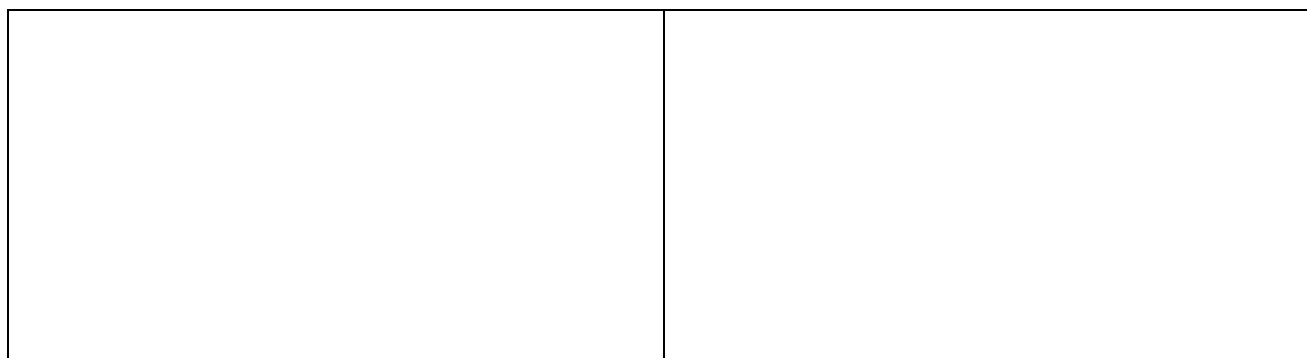
NGOs across Africa while suggesting that the Japanese present a good model that can be adopted in phasing down amalgam. Finally, he presented the copy of the Abuja Declaration document.

RESPONSE FROM NDA:

Dr. Ijarogbe made the following remarks:

- He noted that National Health Insurance Scheme are not primary provider of dental care which further complicate the issue i.e. patients in Nigeria are not meant to benefit from free dental care. Calls for a policy that will enable free dental care through NHIS scheme.
- That the price of dental amalgam is cheaper when compared to the alternative and also amalgam is more durable among practitioners too, therefore the challenge of convincing patients to leave the cheaper amalgam to the expensive alternative.
- On curriculum change, that he is currently working with all deans of faculties of dentistry across the country in drawing up a new curriculum to enable the reformation and reorientation of the institution.
- He proffered on the interim an advocacy for prevention measures through good nutrition and education on care of tooth.
- He assured his willingness to continue to work with the group in future dental amalgam programmes. The need to include all other associated-institutions of NDA.

Picture by Charlie here



4.3 NGO STRATEGY MEETING:

4.3.1. Preamble:

SRADev Nigeria organized an NGO Strategy meeting on the theme: *“Towards a concerted and proactive effort to Phase-down dental amalgam use in Nigeria”* on April 18, 2015 at Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The informal roundtable meeting of selected NGO was organized to discuss a strategy to follow-up for each agency and civil society institution, to discuss too a strategy on how to make famous the Abuja Declaration for Mercury-Free Dentistry. The workshop which began at 9:00am and ended at about 1.30pm was attended by 10 participants from different NGOs in Nigeria (*see list of participants below*). The meeting was jointly chaired and facilitated by Mr. Leslie Adogame and Mr. Charlie Brown and the secretariat aspect was managed by the Programme Officer of SRADev Nigeria, Mr. Akpobe Ambrose. Engr. Chike Chikwendu presented a goodwill message on behalf of Friends of the Environment (FOTE).



4.3.2 Opening Session

Mr. Adogame began the session with the introduction of Mr. Brown and his mission in West Africa and this was followed by self introduction of members. In his opening remark, Mr. Adogame welcomed all participants and thanked them for honouring the invitation in their usual manner. He explained the importance of the workshop and what it set to achieve. He said each participant was carefully selected based on NGO strategic merit to support the process towards strategizing the way forward for the phase down of dental amalgam use in Nigeria. He further presented a more detail overview of the workshop agenda.

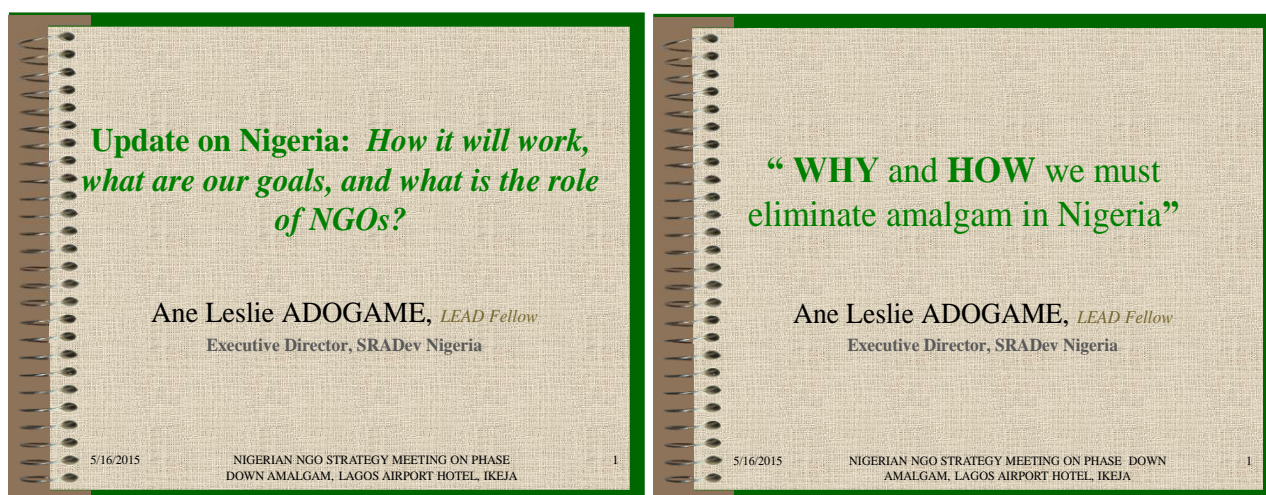
Mr. Brown in his opening comments expressed his confidence on SRADev and the team of NGOs assembled. He spoke about the danger mercury pose to human health and environment, Minamata convention, the Abuja declaration, and the need to commence the phase down work in Nigeria. He said NGO have a key role to play in relation to NGO global effort at global level.

4.3.3 Technical Session:

Three key presentations were made. The first presentation by Mr. Brown (WAMFD) was “An overview of the Mercury Treaty Process”. The presentation captured the following:

- The process of the treaty started in 2009; five INC took place in different countries before the signing of the Minamata Convention in 2013.
- At the INC4 and INC5 Africa position on phase-down was strong and directional towards dental amalgam in dentistry.
- The issue and steps to be taken in amalgam in dentistry was proposed in the Africa regional meeting that took place in Pretoria where the prototype of the Geneva proposal was drafted in 2012 by the African delegates.
- This proposition was later discussed in the subsequent INC meeting that took place in Uruguay which later become the prototype for the convention.
- The aim of the treaty is to secure the future of the unborn generation from impact of mercury in the environmental media such the water (methylmercury in fish), soil and the air emission.
- USA was the first country to ratify the convention but the world needs 50 countries to ratify before the treaty could be a legal binding document.
- Several NGOs played key roles in shaping the INCs until the signing of the Treaty. Ratification of the Convention is now required at country levels.
- This is the reason for the NGO strategic meeting to put forwards ideas to enable strategize the way forward for quick and easy ratification which will eventually lead to implementation of the Minimata convention.

The second and third presentation were made by Mr. Adogame on “Update on Nigeria Phase-down Process” and “WHY and HOW we may eliminate amalgam in Nigeria” respectively (see annex 2 and 3 for presentations). *Highlights of the Paper 2 are:*



- About the Minamata Convention and Nigeria signing in Japan and its importance for Nigeria.
- Provisions of the Conventions and national activities so far

- Proposed strategies by the Ministry of Environment on dental amalgam phase down in Nigeria
- NGOs (SRADev, WAMFD) activities both globally and nationally towards mercury convention implementation and phase down of dental amalgam.
- Overall NGO goals and approach, efforts so far.
- The role of NGO leaders

Highlights of paper 3 are:

- What is mercury and dental amalgam fillings
- Environmental impact and Occupational exposure
- Existence of alternatives and types of alternatives
- A stakeholders approach on how to phase down amalgam in Nigeria
- Phasedown strategies and engagement of key stakeholders.



4.3.4 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- Discouraging insurance policies, and programs that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration; or Encouraging insurance policies and programs that favor the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration; how will it be achieved? It was answered that if NHIS is made a primary provider of free dental amalgam alternatives, so that patients do not need to buy the alternative tooth fillers.
- The need for media to be educated on how to report dental amalgam and the alternatives was advocated by ERA.
- Free dental amalgam alternative should be subsidized by the government.

4.3.5 ACTION PLAN/WAY FORWARD:

- The urgent need for all NGOs to work together and closely with media too.
- There is the need for collaboration between all identified agencies and NGOs.
- The need for cooperation among NGOs and to work in synergy in the phasing out of mercury in Nigeria was agreed on.
- A Steering Committee to coordinate between NGOs was formed and excos nominated. SEDI and SRADev to work as members of the committee in future programmes.
- A one day training workshop for media to be organised in future.

4.3.6 CONCLUSION:

Mr. Adogame thanked all and particularly appreciated the financial support from WAMFD through the amiable President, Mr. Brown on his passion and commitment to the course in Nigeria. He assured the readiness of his team to continue works on dental amalgam until the goal is achieved as seen from the resolve of members at the meetings. He thanked all NGOs for their presence and announced that SRADev would re-imburse a *per diem* and transport allowance after the meeting. The vote of thanks was said by Engr. Chikwendu and was followed by group photographs and lunch.

List of Participants

S/N	NAME	NGO	Position	EMAIL	PHONE
1	Edith Tobore I.	Waste management Association of Nigeria (WAMASON)	Administrative Secretary	editoi@yahoo.com	08037729316
2	Tom Aneni	Sustainable Environmental Development Initiative (SEDI)	Executive Director	Tomaneni1@yahoo.com	08055144010
3	Chike Chikwendu	Friends of the Environment (FOTE)	General Secretary	C_chikwedu@hotmail.com	08023188059
4	Ahaneku C. Peter	Nigeria Environmental Study and Action Team (NEST)	Programme/Admin. officer	Chidiahaneke2010@yahoo.com	08028422263
5	Charlie Brown	WAMFD	President	Charlie@mercury-free.org	-
6	Philip Jakpor	Environmental Right Action (ERA)	Head of media department	philitorium@yahoo.com	08037256939
7	Leslie Adogame	SRADev Nigeria	Executive Director	ane_adogame@hotmail.com	08033301305
8	Michael Simire	EnvironNews Nigeria	Editor-in-chief	msimire@yahoo.com	08037148384
9	Eugene Itua O.	Nigerian Environmental Society (NES)	Chairman (Lagos chapter)	eugeneitua@gmail.com	08030610235
10	Akpobe Ambrose	SRADev Nigeria	Programme Officer	rozdandy@gmail.com	07063550344

5.0 PROJECT FOLLOW-UP OUTCOMES:

In line with the post-visit task of the project, in the weeks following the meetings above (April – June 2015), SRADev undertook follow-up with some of the agencies initially visited or identified, with a goal of a substantial phase-down in use of dental amalgam and consolidating a strong relationship. Some of the follow up and key outcomes achieved were:

5.1 Follow-up with GEF/SGP in Abuja:

Against the backdrop of seeking local alternative funding sources for the phase down of dental amalgam in Nigeria, GEF/SGP small grant funds for NGOs was identified as a potential funding partner. SRADev scheduled an appointment with the national coordinator, Mrs. Olubamise Ronke to discuss the possibility of funding.

The meeting was held at the office of GEF/SGP on April 29, 2015 at 9-10am. Highlights of the meeting are:

- Chemical management is a focal area of SGP. Mercury activities can be funded, have never been funded in the past.
- The last SGP sub regional meeting in Zambia recognised the need to fund chemicals and mercury issues since mercury is now a focal area of GEF.
- Grants of not more than \$50,000 are usually awarded in one phase. In GEF 6 circle not more than \$50,000 is awarded per NGO.
- NGO network funding is encouraged in project funding. NGOs can benefit more than once on a project, in otherwords, an NGO can apply more than once but not two projects at a time. NGOs seating as a committee member of SGP cannot benefit.
- Presently SGP funds are dwindling so SGP is re-focusing into grant maker plus - the new focus is on outcome and what next. Rather than just continue to give out grants to NGOs, projects that have elements of sustainability, replication and upscaling are now priority and criterias for award.
- Unlike in the past were SGP would award about 20 projects in a year, now a maximum of only four (4) projects which demonstrates the above criteria would be selected.
- SRADev could make a justification for chemicals and particularly mercury which has not benefitted any funding and send such a proposal, but a proposal must necessary demonstrate the valid selection criteria above.
- SGP/GEF office in Nigeria is not fully carried along on issue of chemical management by the appropriate government ministries. To this end, the status of chemicals management in Nigeria, Mercury convention implementation process, ratification status etc are unknown.
- SGP/GEF is now looking at strengthening and enhancing CSO-Government relationship as a key area. SGP is committed to also give recommendation and assist NGOs to attract grants from other sources, so bring SGP in while applying to strengthen the application.
- The need for SRADev to update GEF/SGP on mercury reports, bring SGP into NGOs meeting with government. NGOs should invite SGP to participate in its programmes and activities with government.
- It was agreed that SRADev and team can submit a proposal for funding in the next circle SGP funding.



Meeting with SGP/GEF

5.2 Follow up with EnvironNews in Lagos:

Against the backdrop that media needs to play an active role in disseminating information about dental amalgam in Nigeria, SRADev facilitated an agreement reached between WAMFD and EnvironNews in holding several discussions leading to finalising an MOU to which a grant of N100,000 was signed on 10/5/2015 (see *annex 1*) covering May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016.

So far a total of 4 publications have been made and more are to come.

- <http://www.environewsnigeria.com/mercury-free-dentistry-nigeria-ratify-minamata-convention/>
- <http://www.environewsnigeria.com/eu-accused-promoting-recycling-toxic-chemicals/>
- <http://www.environewsnigeria.com/europeans-vote-to-phase-out-amalgam-use/>
- <http://www.environewsnigeria.com/mercuryfree-dentistry-cpc-groups-educate-care-consumers/>

5.3 Follow up with CPC in Abuja:

With regards to the post-visit task of the project requiring follow up to CPC to finalizing the fact sheet on amalgam : to gain agreement on its terms, to get it printed, and to distribute it widely. Following series of communication with WAMFD and CPC, SRADev on 17/6/15 visited the Director of Quality Assurance & Development (Mr. Amlai) to finalise the fact sheet content (see *annex 2*). The outcome of the meeting further resulted to the issuance of a letter of acceptance of collaboration (see *annex 3*) sent to SRADev on 2/7/15.



5.4 Follow up with other Government institutions and UNIDO:

Within the months of May-July 2015, SRADev also followed up (*through phone calls, email, and visits*) with Ministry of Environment of Lagos, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Environment, NAFDAC and UNIDO. With the Lagos State Ministry of Environment, *Mr. Maximus Ugwuoke* explained that the delay in the approval was due to the change in government and that as soon a new commissioner is in place, an approval will be sort for follow activities as agreed in the meeting.

Similar follow up assurances were obtained by the Federal Ministry of Environment and UNIDO that the ongoing implementation of the MIA would at a later stage ensure that dental amalgam issues are carried along. A new relationship was brokered in a meeting with the Head of Chemicals unit of the Federal Ministry of Health, *Mr. M.E.J. Bassey* (Deputy Director) newly posted to the Foods and Drugs department. SRADev used the opportunity to brief him past activities and works related to mercury and dental amalgam, past and recent relationship with foods and drugs unit, past and present relationship with dental units of the ministry, and the entire progress on mercury convention generally. He showed eagerness and readiness to work with SRADev on future initiatives and had maintained very close communication since the visit.



Follow up with Federal Ministry of Environment



Follow up with UNIDO



Follow up with NAFDAC



Follow up with Federal Ministry of Health

5.5 Progress on NGO working Committee on Dental Amalgam Phase Down:

Following to the formation of a working committee to continue work on dental amalgam phase down by NGOs at the last meeting, two meetings have been held with Dr. Tom Aneni (SEDI) and SRADev so far, one in Lagos (Excellence hotel, Ogba) and the other in Benin (University of Benin). The meetings were held to discuss how to progress on the task ahead and also to fashion out other local sources of funding for dental amalgam work. To this end, a proposal on a joint project to be implemented in Lagos and Benin titled **“INITIATIVE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINAMATA CONVENTION THROUGH GREEN HOSPITAL PROGRAMMES”** is being finalised for the SGP/GEF next funding window in 2016.

5.6 Distribution of WAMFD appreciation letters to Government officials:

SRADev also received on 16/6/15 a bunch of appreciation letters dispatched from WAMFD, USA and ensured that the letters were distributed in person to all addressees both in Lagos and Abuja in a timely manner.

5.7 Financial Reporting:

SRADev team made a detail financial accounting and report to the President, WAMFD on all income and expenditure (with official receipts) towards the execution of the project above. This financing reporting was made on the 19th April, 2015 at the Lagos Airport Hotel shortly before his departure for Cote D’Ivoire. Mr. Brown reviewed the detail statement submitted, signed off the

financial report and expressed his satisfaction with the financial statement. His email 19/4/15 read: *O sheun for a thorough and honest financial statement, Leslie. – Charlie.*

6.0 RECOMMENDATION FOR NEXT STEPS:

The following recommendations for next step are made:

- ✓ **The need for a Phase 3 programme in 2016 to involve in part or whole the following activities:**
 - **An awareness raising workshop with NAFDAC, NDA and Lagos ministry of environment.**
 - **A survey of alternatives of dental amalgam use in Nigeria and their cost benefit assessment.**
 - **A media capacity building programme to be held in Lagos in collaboration with media partner in 2016.**
- ✓ **A detail strategy for printing and distribution of the information the brochure to be worked out with CPC and other long term communications activities followed up. WAMFD to fund the leaflets print and distribution by last quarter of 2015.**
- ✓ **Sustaining ongoing relationship with partners like EnvironNews, SEDI, etc and activities with government institutions.**
- ✓ **The need to explore alternatives sources of funding both locally and internationally. SRADev team and WAMFD is exploring a funding window with African Development Bank (AfDB).**

Annex 1:

Mini Grant on Publicizing Dental Amalgam Phase-Out/Mercury-Free Dentistry for Africa Campaign on EnviroNews Nigeria (www.environewsigeria.com)



Terms of Reference/Memorandum of Agreement between SRADev Nigeria and Enviro News

Background

Dental amalgam is a tooth filling material that is approximately 50% mercury, a highly polluting neurotoxin. Nations around the world are working to phase-down – and ultimately phase-out – amalgam use. This is chiefly due to the fact that dental mercury pollution is significant, mercury-free dental restorations are available and the fact that the Minamata Convention on Mercury requires the phase-down of dental amalgam use. Similarly, the West African Summit on Phasing Out Amalgam was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 20 May 2014, bringing together NGO leaders from ECOWAS nations of Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania, who adopted the Abuja Declaration for Mercury-Free Dentistry for Africa. The Declaration's aim is that Africa shall be the first continent to phase out amalgam.

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry/SRADev Nigeria have taken up a campaign to not only ensure that Africa emerges dental amalgam-free, but also to implement the dental amalgam phase-down measures of the Minamata Convention (and ultimately phase out amalgam use), which has so far been ratified by seven (7) countries.

Awareness raising and communication programmes are identified as a major component of the campaign at the NGO strategy meeting in Lagos on 18 April 2015 as there still appears to be a high level of ignorance among the citizenry concerning the dangers posed by dental amalgam. By this MOA, SRADev Nigeria hereby associate by appointing Enviro News to lead its communication programme in Nigeria.

Tasks and Deliverables

To assist in the execution of this campaign in terms of educating the populace, informing and raising awareness on the structure, dynamics and dangers posed by dental amalgam, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry/SRADev Nigeria is commissioning the services of EnviroNews Nigeria (www.environewsigeria.com) in this regard. EnviroNews Nigeria is a highly informative and globally patronized online news magazine with a bias for environment and development issues. The engagement takes the form of the following tasks:

- 1) Sourcing of relevant research materials on the subject matter, dental amalgam and related mercury issues of the Convention, and also attending relevant functions (meetings, conferences, workshops, etc) organized by World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry/SRADev Nigeria and other relevant institutions listed below so as to avail officials of EnviroNews with current trends/developments regarding the mercury-free dentistry initiative.
- 2) Write informative reports and feature articles that are published on the website, and widely circulated online via the medium's Newsletter and Social Media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, etc).

- 3) Include within the database of its wide readership key stakeholders of government and key institutions in Nigeria such as Environment and health institutions, dental institutions/associations, etc

Period of Engagement

12 months in the first Year (May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016)

Schedule of Deliverables

The schedule of deliverables:

1. One to two well researched articles published and circulated monthly. Totaling between 12 to 24 articles within period of engagement.
2. As part of its contribution to the Mercury-Free Dentistry project, Environ News offer to run, at no cost, an advertisement on the campaign.
3. Both parties to monitor effectively the coverage and the reach of the publications on quarterly basis to inform if need for change of strategy.

Compensation

Total compensation is in form of a mini-grant only (excluding advertisement insertion): **N100,000** (One hundred thousand Naira only).

Agreed by:


_Sign



Date 09/05/2015

Leslie Adogame (World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry/SRADev Nigeria)

_Sign



Date 10/05/2015

Michael Simire (EnviroNews Nigeria)

Annex 2:

DENTAL FILLINGS: THE CHOICES YOU HAVE

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

The legally binding treaty *Minamata Convention on Mercury* requires nations to “phase down” the use of amalgam fillings and urges the use of mercury-free fillings. The Nigerian government has signed the *Minamata Convention* and is committed to reducing amalgam filling use. As a consumer, you are strongly encouraged to

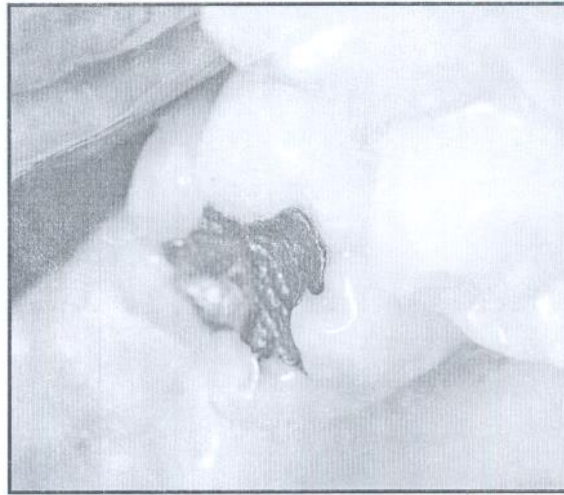
- **Review** this brochure to learn about your choices.
- **Ask** your dentist about your mercury-free filling options.
- **Consider** the environmental impact of mercury from amalgam fillings.
- **Consider** helping phase down amalgam filling use by choosing a mercury-free filling like composite resin or glass ionomer.
- **Make** an informed decision about your dental filling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Consumer Protection Council
Plot 1105 Dar es-Salaam Street
Off Aminu Kano Crescent Wuse II
P.M.B 5077, Wuse, Abuja

SRADev Nigeria
18, Olorunlogbon Street
Anthony Village, Lagos
sradevnigeria@yahoo.com
www.sradev.org

Tel: 234-8033301305, 07025283219



Amalgam Filling Containing Mercury

CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCIL
(Established under Decree No. 66 of 1992)

Plot 1105 Dar es-Salaam Street
Off Aminu Kano Crescent Wuse II, P.M.B 5077, Wuse, Abuja

Annex 3:

CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCIL



CPC/HQ/437/VOL. II

18th June, 2015

The Executive Director
Sustainable Research & Action for
Environmental Development (SRADev, Nigeria)
18, Olorunlogbon Street, Anthony Village, Lagos.

Re: Global Programme to Phase down Dental Amalgam Use follow up activities

Refer to the meeting of SRADev, Mercury Free Dentistry and the Consumer Protection Council on April 16th, 2015 where both parties reached an agreement to bring up the final copy of the Consumer's tips for Dental care for production. Council appreciates your efforts and that of the President Mercury Free Dentistry, Washington DC, USA Mr. Charlie Brown towards the implementation of the Minamata Convention on the phase down of amalgam use in Nigeria.

The program is appropriate as it will ensure that the following Rights of consumers are protected and promoted. These Rights include amongst others Right to Safety, Right to Information, Right to Choose, Right to Consumer Education, Right to a Healthy Environment etc.

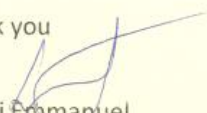
These tips on dental filling that has been developed by the council will be used to educate Nigerian dental care consumers throughout the country.

With the development of the tips and the approval by our Director General you are requested to please commence the printing of the documents.

While looking forward to further collaborations with your office, please accept the Director Generals esteemed regards and convey the same to Mr. Charlie Brown.

Find attached the copy of the consumer tip's document.

Thank you


Amlai Emmanuel
Director, Quality Assurance & Development
For: Director General

HEAD OFFICE: Plot 1105, Dar-Es-Salam Street, Off Amin, Kano Crescent, Wuse II, P.M.B. 5077, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2730940-3. Hot lines: 0805-6002020, 0805-6003030, 09-2730949-53, 09-5241409-11. Fax: 09-5230343
E-mail: cpcnigeria@yahoo.co.uk. Website: www.cpcnigeria.com